

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 727

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Colonel Antonio "Tony" Lopez of Covington.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Colonel Antonio "Tony" Lopez; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lopez was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Los Angeles, California on November 7, 1934, Antonio "Tony" Lopez was the son of Joseph Leo Lopez and Librada Yatez Lopez, who taught him the value of hard work and service to others; and

WHEREAS, after demonstrating exceptional academic abilities, Tony Lopez was awarded a competitive scholarship to attend Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and upon graduation, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado and his Master of Science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Tony Lopez answered duty's call and became a pilot in the United States Air Force, honorably serving his country for twenty-seven years and achieving the rank of colonel; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lopez flew 386 combat missions in Vietnam, serving in three campaigns; and

WHEREAS, during his prominent military career, Colonel Lopez earned numerous awards, among them the Distinguished Flying Cross; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the armed forces, Colonel Lopez proudly served in President George H.W. Bush's administration with professionalism, ability, and integrity as

Special Assistant to the President, Director of the White House Military Office, and Associate Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lopez then retired to the Covington area and tirelessly engaged in both civic and business pursuits, diligently working as an international business development consultant and serving as a manger for Latin America business development for the Vollrath Company, in which positions he earned the respect of his colleagues and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedication to excellence; and

WHEREAS, displaying the patriotism and honor for which he was well known, Colonel Lopez served as a commissioner on the American Battle Monuments Commission, establishing and maintaining commemorative cemeteries, memorials, and monuments; during his estimable tenure, Colonel Lopez worked with the members of the World War II Memorial Campaign, including such notable leaders as former senator and presidential candidate Bob Dole and president of the FedEx Corporation Frederick W. Smith to establish the illustrious National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Tony Lopez was an active and devout member of the Catholic Church, which he faithfully served for many years as the secretary for development and public relations for the Catholic Dioceses of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lopez was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Tony Lopez is survived by his loving wife of fifty-two years, Ruth B. Lopez; his children, Linda A. Carney, Richard T. Lopez, Michael L. Lopez, and Anthony Lopez; his brother Joseph Leo Lopez, Jr.; his nine grandchildren; and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lopez leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Colonel Antonio "Tony" Lopez, reflecting fondly

upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Colonel Lopez.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.